Mr. Speaker, during the President's weekly radio

address, he accused the Democrats of spending 68 days pushing

legislation that would undercut our troops.

During his tour of the Middle East yesterday, Defense Secretary

Robert Gates said,

He

goes on to say, it has a positive impact

So who's right? Either the Secretary of the Defense, who is calling

for the Iraqis to take ownership of their country, or the President,

who is playing politics here at home? The Congress has provided the

President the one thing he has refused to develop after 4 years of war:

a policy to get the Iraqis off the sidelines and onto the field.

So after years of chaos and bloodshed, when the administration asks

for more troops and more time and more of the same, we are calling for

accountability of the Iraqis and a responsible redeployment of U.S.

troops. Our troops are bearing all of the responsibility for the

President's policy, and the Iraqis have no accountability.

Secretary Gates, thank you for your honest assessment of what it

takes to bring a new direction to Iraq.